



Cottages opposite the Rectory, Coton, 1928 - 10163

## Coton Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies  
reported in Cambridge Newspapers

summarised by

Mike Petty

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Most of these stories originally appeared in the Cambridge Daily/Evening/News or the  
Cambridgeshire Weekly News, its sister title.

They are supplemented by some articles published in the  
Cambridge Independent Press or Cambridge Chronicle

Most were featured in my 'Looking Back' column in the Cambridge News from 1996-2014

The complete 'Cambridgeshire Scrapbook' of which this is a small section is published online  
on my Internet Archive site

<https://archive.org/search.php?query=creator%3A%22Mike%20Petty%22>

I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised.  
I hope to publish these online one day. If you would like them in the meantime then please get  
in touch.

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central  
Library where there are many other indexes dating back to 1770.

They also have detailed newspaper cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled  
since the 1960s.

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check

There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.

I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – [www.mikepetty.org.uk](http://www.mikepetty.org.uk) for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2018

Coton Scrapbook

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1897 11 14

On Saturday night a Western force was advancing on Cambridge from the direction of St Neots and an Eastern force had been assembled to protect the town. They established a line of outposts from Coton to Barton church. At about three o'clock the opposing forces came into collision. The first firing took place in Barton village. Barton hill formed a strong point in the defence and here Colonel Cronin, much assisted by the Maxim-guns made a prolonged stand, but the numerical superiority of the attacking force compelled him at length to retire, fighting hard

1902 01 30

A man told the court he had been employed as foreman by a Coton farmer and it was arranged that he should have 18s per week wages, one third of the rabbits he killed and £4 for harvest money. During harvest he worked from 4.30 am to 9 pm and received no extra pay. He went to the various shows and had to sit up at night with the cattle. They were successful but he never received anything extra. He broke in a cob and now claimed £1 for the work; a horse-breaker would have charged three guineas.

1906 03 08

The Battle of Haggis and Dumpling Farms took place on Wednesday. They stand on either side of the road from Coton to Grantchester and here the Cambridge and Oxford University Rifle Volunteer Corps engaged in an interesting encounter. About 1,800 combatants included cadets from the Leys and County Boys Schools, with mounted infantry and cycle contingents on both sides. The rifle fire was continuous and maxim guns added their sinister bark to the noise. Fortunately the weather was fine. 06 03 08a & b

1908 07 24

Coton Horticultural Show, held in the Rectory grounds, attracted a good deal of attention. Villagers exhibited quite a remarkable collection of vegetables and a succession of cricket matches were played including Girls versus Men and Coton boys v Dry Drayton boys. A string band from St Catharine's and the King's College quartette provided acceptable music and dancing concluded the evening programme. CWN 08 07 24

1909 02 19

Complaints had been made about cyclists and horses being ridden on the footpath from Burrell's Walk to Coton. Part of the footpath known as Love Lane was now merged in Adams Road where it had been converted into a carriage way. But if cyclists were allowed to use it why not a carriage and pair? A tricycle would completely impede a pedestrian, magistrates were told at the first prosecution of a cyclist for riding on the footpath 09 02 19

1909 03 05

During military night operations around Cambridge residents were discomforted by the activity of an eight-inch howitzer entrenched in a capitally-constructed earth fort on the high ground of Madingley Hill. It was attacked by the Cambridge University officer Training Corps who found the rush uphill on the double was too long and exhausting. There was the danger of troops arriving out of breath and in scattered formation being charged with the bayonet. So they marched across country, crossing fences and ditches in silence. After the roar of an explosion, symbolising the destruction of the howitzer they retired to Coton 09 03 05

1909 07 23

The first visit of the Cambridge Police Force band to Coton some years ago will not soon be forgotten. A resident had arranged for a wagonette for their conveyance but when turning a corner by Gt St Mary's they were surprised to see a wheel careering along beside them and the wagon gracefully toppled over, depositing the bandsmen in the roadway. They continued

by charabanc but their former driver was accosted by a policeman and ordered to 'clear that wreckage away' or he would be run in. Considering he had brought it over for the conveyance of the police band his indignation can be imagined

1910 10 21

Three labourers were charged with stealing nine golf balls and an overcoat from Charles Willmott, a groundsman at the University Golf Links at Coton. The men went to the fields adjoining the course and picked up golf balls knocked some distance by players which they sold to an athletic outfitter of Downing Street. Willmott said he had left his overcoat in a shed on the links and it had gone missing. Later he found it in a ditch. Nine golf balls that had been in the pocket had gone. He went to the shop and identified them because of peculiar marks, one of them was quite unique. If men could not sell the balls they would not trouble to pick them up. 10 10 28

1911 03 21

Rev S. Trerice Adams, the rector of Coton, has returned from New Zealand where he has been acting as vicar of St Mary's church in Timaru for 18 months. On his departure he was given a handsome album containing beautiful views of Canterbury and a purse of sovereigns. He arrived in Coton having travelled overland from Marseilles where he left the Orient line Ophir and was received most enthusiastically by parishioners. He is in excellent health and takes up his work at once, preaching morning and evening Sunday next in the village church 11 03 17

1912 08 16

Coton parochial institute – appeal for funds 12 08 16cc

1912 09 13a

Walter Barnes, carman employed by Mr Winter, furniture remover was driving two horses in single file drawing a lorry down Madingley Hill when a motor car passed him. The noise of the car frightened the horses and they set off in a mad career down the steep incline. Barnes made strenuous efforts to rein them in but they only became more frantic. On nearing the Coton corner the lorry overturned and he was thrown out. Mr J.A. Venn rushed Barnes to Addenbrooke's Hospital in his motor car, leaving his wife at the scene of the accident. 12 09 13b

1916 12 13

Scouts night attack on Coton – details – 16 12 13g

1918 03 13

Military Wedding.—A Military wedding of considerable local interest took place at Amesbury, Wiltshire, last Monday week, when Sergeant Philip C. Butler, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Fred Butler, of Histon, was married to Miss Constance May Silk, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Bert Silk, of Coton. The bride is now engaged on V.A.D. work at Fargo Military Hospital, Salisbury Plain, whilst the bridegroom is at the First Military Hospital, Cambridge. The bridegroom is well-known in Histon and district in various sporting circles.

1919 07 30

Tragic death Marcus Southwell Dimsdale, Fellow of Kings, at Coton; dead from gunshot wounds – 19 07 30c

1920 08 11

Football - The annual meeting of the Histon and District Football League was held in the Histon Institute on Wednesday evening. Mr. L. R. Neaves, of Coton, occupied the chair, and was supported by the hon. secretary of the League (Mr. J. Harold Peck), and there were

representatives from the following clubs: Willingham, Cottenham North End, Milton, Comberton, Histon Institute, Girton, Oakington, Cottenham, Horningsea and Coton. Apology for non-attendance was received from Over Hotspurs. Mr. John Chivers was re-elected president of the League, and the following vice-presidents were also elected, subject to their consent: Dr. J. M. King (Willingham), Mr. Arthur Rhodes (Histon), the Rev S. T. Adams (Cambridge). Dr. Balsam (Girton). Mr. F. H. Keats (Milton), Mr. T. F. Essex (Milton), Mr. Thomas Ivatt (Cottenham), the Rev. W C. Cooke, R.D, and the Rev. R. Smith (Histon), Mr. Philip Papworth (Oakington), Mr. John Papworth (Landbeach), the Hon. E. S. Montagu, M.P. Mr. G. Rogers (Comberton), Mr. Gordon Baker (Girton), Dr. Ellis (Cottenham), Mr. B. W. Silk (Coton), and Rev. David Oliver (Over). Mr. A. T. Rogers was re-elected hon. treasurer and Mr. J. Peck auditor. Mr. J. Harold Peck was re-elected hon. secretary, and Mr. L. B. Neaves (Coton) chairman of the council. The secretary's report, which was very satisfactory, was presented by Mr. J. H. Peck. Over Hotspurs were the winners of the cup, with Coton runners-up. The treasurer's report was also presented, and showed a satisfactory balance in hand. Various alterations were made to the rules of the League and it was decided this year to present twelve medals instead of eleven as heretofore. The entrance fee to clubs this season is 10s. Entries close September 1.

1921 01 19

Longstanton, Coton war memorial – 21 01 19c

1922 06 02

Through the generosity of a comparative stranger in their midst, the people of Coton have at last had a long-felt want satisfied. A year ago Mr & Mrs Albert Peake took up their residence at St Catharine's Hall Farm, and clamant need for a recreation ground for the parish was so forcibly borne in upon them that they recently decided to present a splendid 10-acre field near the centre of the village for the purpose.

1923 05 22 c

Deep regret will be felt in the county at the death of Mr Albert Peake, of St Catharine's Manor Farm, Coton. He decided to settle there about two years ago, and the day he made that decision was a fortunate one for the village. He practically rebuilt the old the town Manor which dates as far back as St Catharine's College, and built handsome premises in the shape of farm buildings, on what was formerly known as St Catharine's farm. One of his generous acts for the welfare of the villagers was to present them with a large recreation ground - known as Peake's playground, the children up to that time having no place other than the road on which to play

1928 12 15

St Catharine's Farm, Coton, has been taken over by the Stetchworth Dairies. Built in 1922 it contains the finest buildings of any farm in the Eastern Counties and it is because of the spacious byres for cows that the Dairies have secured it. It is another asset to their fine chain of model milk producing farms, which includes Ditton Hall Farm, Rectory Farm Milton and Aldham House Farm, Chesterton. At Merton Hall Farm, Madingley Road the cows are milked by electricity.

1930 07 25

The controversy over the University Farm on Huntingdon Road was resolved when Cambridge councillors rejected proposals for a road across the land. It had never been a ring road, only a road to be planned in the event of traffic conditions demanding it. It was altogether wrong to put an arterial road in the middle of a rural area which they desired to preserve and which they hoped would never be required. They should ensure that Grantchester and Coton were not swallowed up by Cambridge in the way that Trumpington and Girton were. 30 07 25a-c

1932 10 21

Coton Women's Institute was formed in 1923 and five years later they'd decided to build a new hall. A piece of land was acquired from Mr Edwards on very favourable terms and a sub-committee of men formed to help with the building. The contract was given to Mr E. Peacock at a total cost of about £300. Now it was open and their grand-daughters would enjoy the amenities of the fine Institute. 32 10 21b (pic 32 10 28f)

1933 11 23

A Cambridge man told the bankruptcy court that he had farmed at Rectory Farm Coton after the war, then gone into partnership in a retail milk and dairy business in Ely High Street. In 1927 he purchased part of the dairy business at Cherry Hinton Hall Farm and then bought a coal business in John Street, Cambridge. He did not know anything about the trade and he had competition. The weather was against him: the winter of 1932 was very bad for coal merchants and the summer of 1933 made it a jolly sight worse 33 11 23

1937 05 03

The Rural Community Council's new advisory service for parish councils was launched at Cambridgeshire House. Burrough Green, Caxton, Coton, Gt Chishill, Newton and Longstowe were amongst 18 councils who wish to affiliate were received. 37 05 03

1938 06 10

Firemen were called to the main road between Littlebury and Little Chesterford where they found a fairground wagon ablaze. The Foden wagon, owned by Mr J.H. Manning of Bedford, contained a Jollity Farm and was on its way to Coton. They did their best to save some of the parts but the whole of the wagon and practically all its contents were completely destroyed. Damage was estimated at between £1,000 and £2,000 38 06 10

1940 11 13

Woman bombed out of her house in London left her furniture in cottage at Coton and refused to leave - 40 11 13a

1945 10 12

Cambridgeshire Troops Comforts Fund,—Donations received for the, month of June, 1945. Brought forward £2,528 12s. 6d., Employees, of Cambridge University Press. (64th donation) £3 2s. 5d., Gonville and Caius College Staff 16s. 8d., Cherry Hinton Wardens' Service 30s. 8d., Next-of-kin parcels for Cambridgeshire P.O.W.'s: Coton members of Cambs. Red Cross (Cambs. 120 £15 12s., Mrs. J. Smith 10s., Mrs Benstead £2, Chittering whist drive, per Mrs. Long £7 5s., Mrs. Clark £3, Signalman Richard Gray (returned P.O.W.) £10, Miss Helen Sizer (coll.) £2 8s. 6d., Ex-P.O.W. Anon - £100, Ainsworth Street Savings P.O. Telephones £1 15s. 3d., Miss Martin 10s., Mr. and Mrs. Wilson and lads of George and Dragon £15 5s., Mrs. Butcher £1 10s., , Mr. Hagger 10s., Mr. Clarke 10s., Dvr, R Stokes £1, Anon 10s., Mr. Smith £8 9s 6d., Mrs. Knight 10s., Mrs Herrell 10s. Flack and Judge. Mr Ayres £1 10s., Mrs. Brown 10s., sundry donations under 10s., £1 11s 6d; total £2,715 19s. 2d. Subscriptions may be paid to any branch of any bank in Cambridge or they may be paid direct to the Honorary Treasurer, Mr. R. H. Parker, Barclays Bank Ltd., Bene't Street, ; Cambridge

1947 06 26

Plans for providing Airey houses at a number of villages in the Chesterton R.D.C. area in lieu of permanent brick houses are being prepared. The Ministry of Health have ruled that during the next 18 months, rural authorities must erect one Airey house per three houses constructed. The architect is preparing revised lay-out plans for the sites at Fulbourn, Teversham, Longstanton and Elsworth. A lay-out plan for Coton, providing for a total of 54 houses was approved. Housing progress up to May 29th 1947 reveals 77 houses completed (includes 31 prefabs, 4 bungalows and 5 Swedish), 136 permanent houses and 19 temporary houses in course of erection

1947 07 31

At the meeting of the Chesterton Rural District Council it was reported that a further three parishes (Coton, Fen Drayton and Lolworth) had been supplied with water mains. It was anticipated that the work involving the supply to Barton, Comberton, Toft, Haslingfield and Harlton would be put in hand during the coming year. Several parishes, notably Croxton, Eltisley, Graveley, Hardwick and Dry Drayton were extremely short of water for domestic and stock purposes and trouble was anticipated in the summer months. The position could not be improved until a new high level water tower was erected thereby affording sufficient pressure to enable a mains supply to be taken to these villages.

1947 09 04

Secrecy surrounding boring operations now in progress at Coton has given rise to extraordinary rumours in the village. "They are prospecting for uranium deposits" was the general brief amongst several villagers. The operations began last week when two men from London started boring a 20ft hole on the Whitwell bridle path, which is War Department property and used by the Territorial Association as a rifle range. The truth is that the borings are being made on behalf of the Metropolitan Water Board to discover the type of ground through which mains would have to pass if the Board proceeded with a scheme to take a supply from the River Ouse.

1947 11 07

The President of the Coton Women's Institute said that such was the pressure on the present bus services from the village that housewives had to shop "by proxy". When people did eventually get into Cambridge they found "the cupboard bare". Mrs Burbage of Cambridge Road, Coton, said that people were often left behind and had to reply on motorists to give them a lift into Cambridge. The last time she travelled back on the 12.20 bus from Cambridge she said, "We were really packed in like sardines and I was really scared to travel"

1949 02 28

Cambridge University and Town Gas Light Company meeting was told that 8  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles of new mains had been laid. The supply had been extended to Teversham and Coton and a new low-pressure feeder main installed between Newmarket road and Mill road, Cambridge. This necessitated laying a section of the main six feet underneath the four lines of railway track at Coldham's Lane bridge. Statistics revealed 600 new consumers, the supply of 1,606 gas cookers and a growing interest in central heating through automatically operated gas boilers.

1949 03 18

Proposals for further extension of Cambridge boundaries to meet housing needs were disclosed at the Town Council. It is now suggested that Barton, Coton, Madingley, Fen Ditton, Girton, Horningsea, Grantchester and Teversham should be included

1951 06 11

The Cambridgeshire of the future will have a number of new roads, fire & police stations, sewerage schemes, old peoples' homes, a new children's home and a mental deficiency colony. Planners say villages recommended for enlargement include Milton, Fulbourn, Shelford, Barton and Coton where the population will increase from 400 to 1,840. Road improvements recommended include a bypass to the east of Girton relinking the road interrupted by the RAF station but Cambridge bypasses are not shown as surveys show there is no immediate need for them.

1951 11 01

The golden jubilee of the Gog Magog Golf Club was celebrated with a dinner at the Dorothy Café. Guest of honour was Mr Bernard Darwin, the famous authority on the game who was

an early member of the club when an undergraduate at Trinity College. Recalling his early golfing days he mentioned some of the local courses, including one on Coldham's Common, one at Coton and another "somewhere near the Grange Road". The Gogs club was founded for the recreation of the senior members of the University and the first rules provided that the number of undergraduates permitted to play should not interfere with the convenience and enjoyment of the senior members of the University.

1952 03 27

When Chesterton RDC acquired land to erect 2,000 council houses in "necklace villages" in order to accommodate the "over-spilled" population of Cambridge they should obtain sufficient land to allow for private building as well, said a councillor. Council houses were subsidised to the extent of £35 12s. and building private houses would ease the financial burden. The sewerage of the parishes of Milton and Great and Little Shelford was already in and they should be the first villages to be developed. Fulbourn, Stapleford, Harston, Barton and Coton were also on the priority list.

1955 07 12

Just as hundreds of Cambridge office workers were about to leave for home down came the rain in one of the most unusual thunderstorms. Only parts of the city were affected, in others there was mild drizzle. At Coton lightning struck a transformer under which an eight-year-old lad had been playing, close by a television aerial was struck and split to pieces setting the tv on fire and a Comberton the chimney stack of a house was struck, causing serious damage to the roof. 55 07 12

1955 11 03

The Cambridge Preservation Society applied to have allotment land it owned beside the Coton footpath earmarked for housing. But the County Planners said the footpath was of very great importance to the amenities of Cambridge and they were anxious to prevent the spread of development. The Society was in it for financial reasons - it would raise the value of their land to £4,000. The proposal was also opposed by Coton Parish Council who said there was a waiting list for allotments and it would prove a hardship for present tenants. 55 11 03

1956 11 06

A proposal to spend £1,750 on a new bedroom and bathroom for the teacher's house at Coton Church of England School was ridiculous, councillors said. The house was an integral part of the school building and needed a new bathroom and kitchen. But the present school was inadequate and the only alternative was to build a new one. 56 11 06

1957 04 03

Sir – in Coton the rectangular parcel of grass land in the centre of the new housing estate was some years ago planted with four saplings which have flourished. But now it seems they must be encased in stout timbers and barbed wire to protect them against the ravages of the Coton 'Commandos'. At the same time a tree was planted in the middle of their football pitch. In the future can we expect to see them all protected by sandbags, barbed-wire entanglements or an electric fence? - Gaza C Strip. 57 04 03a

1957 03 31

A tiny notice banning games has angered dozens of families on the Silverdale Avenue Estate, Coton. They say the old 'Village Green' makes an ideal playing field now barbed wire has been removed from around trees – the boys had their footballs punctured on them. The District Council says little toddlers can still go on the green but youngsters will have to travel half a mile to the recreation ground. Parents will organise a petition to get the notice removed. 57 03 31

1957 06 07



The Minister has approved plans to reduce the rate of growth of Cambridge but increase the development of nearby villages like Histon, Girton, Milton and Coton. However no deliberate expansion will take place at Teversham, Hauxton, Madingley or Grantchester. Villages can only preserve their identity and character if they remain physically separate from each other so a Green Belt will be introduced. 57 06 07a

1957 06 15

Coton villagers were woken by a big explosion. On investigation a small hole was found beside the Grantchester Road about half a mile from the village. The Bomb Disposal Unit from Feltwell was called to the scene. It is known that eight bombs fell in the area during the war, of which four did not explode. It is understood that the explosion was caused by one of these bombs. 57 06 15b

1957 08 01

Coton notice board at Silverdale Avenue to go – 57 08 01b

1959 10 12

The character of Adams Road had changed due to the increase in the number of heterogeneous houses, the older houses had deteriorated in appearance, one was unfenced and children played all over the road. The bus service was valueless in the afternoons and at week-ends and it was a very popular thoroughfare for people using the footpath to Coton. A year ago it was a reasonable area, now it had changed because of the noise from certain houses, the Valuation Panel was told. But they upheld the rating assessment. 59 10 12

***1960s The Cambridgeshire Collection has newspaper cuttings files from this date***

1961 03 24

Throughout the year the CIP carried a series of feature articles relating to Cambridgeshire villages. They are Coton – 61 03 24 CIP

1961 08 24

Coton is the home of one of the pioneers of film-making – Arthur Melbourne-Cooper, builder of St Albans first cinema, photographer and film maker – 61 08 11 CIP

1963 03 09

Cuts in the education budget means that the primary school buildings programme has been badly hit; the Ministry has agreed to only one new school at Coton, replacing a two-classroom village school. Proposals for schools at Comberton and Fen Drayton have been rejected. 63 03 09

1965 02 04

Coton Linden Brooke tea rooms known throughout the country – photo – 65 02 04a

1965 04 07

Linden-Brooke world famous tea rooms at Coton for sale – 65 04 07a

1965 04 22

Wallis Autogyros set up in Chesterton Road with support from people at Coton – 65 04 22a

1969 05 30

University 'Science City' planned for 300-acre site near Coton – 69 05 30

1972 03 08

Coton reservoir nearly complete, p6

1972 10 21

Coton shopkeeper retires, 72 10 21 p6

1973 08 29

Coton forge, p12

1975 12 20

Veteran village milkman Douglas Childerley remembers winters so cold that roads were too icy to walk upon. And he suspected that the winter of 1975/6 was going to be a harsh one, which is why Douglas, who's been delivering milk in Coton, Hardwick and Madingley for 50 years, decided the time has come to retire. He was born in the Plough public house, Coton, where his father doubled as publican and village milkman before him. As a boy he helped his father carry milk on a yoke with a can at each end. Later he had a bicycle with two three-gallon cans on the front and two more on the handlebars.

1978 04 29

A campaign has been launched to save the 23-pupil Madingley Primary School by turning it into a co-operative. For 39 years the school has been run by the headmistress and the only teacher, Mrs Gwen Ruddle, who retires in July. The County Council thought that would be an appropriate time to close. But the parents say it would kill off the heart of the village and do not like the idea of sending their children to Coton school, 1½ miles away

1979 03 16

Cambridge comes out poorly in the new 'Good Food Guide'; two entries are dropped leaving the city with just one restaurant, the 'unusually suave' Peking Chinese Restaurant in Burleigh Street, and one pub, the Fort St George. Out go the Strudel's Restaurant in Fitzroy Street and the Golden Palace Chinese restaurant in Ely together with the Eagle in Bene't Street and the Plough at Coton. Old favourites which retain their rating include the Old Fire Engine House at Ely, the Old Bridge Hotel Huntingdon and the Hotel de la Poste, Swavesey. The Pink Geranium at Melbourn gets the humbler 'Pass' rating.

1981 12 10

There has been a massive response to the first children's Christmas science lectures in Cambridge. Pupils from Coton school were so determined to attend that they walked a mile to the Cavendish Laboratory. Other schools organised coaches and cars so their children could attend the demonstrations on 'Light and Colour', showing that science is an exciting subject worthy of pursuit. 81 12 10

1983 10 29

Customers had a dramatic escape when a lorry ploughed into a newsagents on the corner of Market Street and River Lane, Fordham. The vehicle that became firmly embedded in the front of the building was carrying a load of wheat feed from Soham back to Coton. The crash has renewed calls for a bypass to alleviate the heavy traffic going through the village 83 10 29 p1

1984 01 13

Thousands of homes were without electricity when overnight storms brought down power lines all over Cambridgeshire. Eighteen villagers were hit by power cuts and two – Shepreth and Coton – were cut off completely. On the roads cyclists were blown over, cars and lorries swept on to verges and on the A10 at Waterbeach one lorry was blown on to its side. Hundreds of commuters were late for work when felled trees blocked roads. A house at Chapman Way, Over, was wrecked when a 60 foot ash tree crashed through the roof 84 01 13 p1

1986 06 17

Grays of Cambridge, the 130-years-old sports firm, has reached the end of an era with the closure of its Benson Street headquarters. The only remaining presence locally is a small racquet-making factory at Coton on the site of their former sawmill. The last 18 months have seen the workforce dwindle from 150 to just six. The main reasons for decline have been increased competition from Taiwan and a change away from wooden frames towards graphite and metal racquets and. Now they produce them for the small market of real tennis and rackets players 86 06 17a

1987 07 03

Sculpture students from CCAT have put the finishing touches to an adventure playground at Coton Primary School. Two groups, led by lecturer Christine Fox, designed the playground on the Greek legend of the Minotaur and the maze. The giant timber structure, which is 20 ft high and 50 ft long, is shaped like a bull. It was a real community effort with parents helping with much of the building work. 87 07 03a

1988 02 02

George Reynolds was a loveable tramp who lived by a cabbage patch at the bottom of a garden in Coton for 30 years. 'Old George', thought to have run away from home as a teenager, was a well-known character. He built himself a shack made from old timber, plastic, corrugated iron sheets and other assorted rubbish where he did his cooking over an open fire, slept on newspapers and occasionally had a wash in an old tin bath outside his hut. He was likeable and completely harmless and will be missed by everybody 88 02 02

1988 07 12

Coton Primary School took a village rubbish tip, a selection of saplings, and a dozen toads. They threw in a plastic sheet, assorted flowers and bags of enthusiasm, mixed well and got a wildlife sanctuary that has won a nature conservation award. Trees of every variety from goat willow to rose and hawthorn were planted after consultation with experts, including Dr Malcolm Stuart, whose botanical garden is adjacent to the school. A £200 grant was used to buy stepping stones and the children held a school disco to raise money for a gate so the pond area can be closed off for safety 88 07 12b

1989 06 12

The Rambling Rose Tea Gardens at Brook Lane, Coton – formerly the Lynden Brook Tea Rooms – was for many years a popular meeting place for members of Cambridge society and a well-known landmark. Once owned by the family of Mr Charles Orr Stanley, founder of the Pye Group, the tea rooms fell into disrepair some years ago and the foundations became unsafe. It has now been demolished to make way for a five bedroomed house 89 06 12